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TIME
16 February 1987

Letters

Money Matters

TIME stated in its story "Pursuing the Money Connections" [NATION, Dec. 15] that the General Accounting Office "reported ... that the State Department was unable to account definitively for some \$17 million of the \$27 million that Congress had authorized for the [humanitarian-assistance] program." On the contrary, the State Department has accounted definitively on the humanitarian-assistance funds to the intelligence committees of the House and Senate, which have maintained oversight of this program. The GAO only stated that it was unable to independently verify that fact.

Congressional review of intelligence matters rests with the intelligence committees. Intelligence has never been a subject for GAO review. Regardless of the GAO's understandable inability to verify expenditures under the humanitarian-assistance program, the State Department established a sound monitoring system to do so, and has been able to account for those funds to the satisfaction of the intelligence committees of the House and the Senate, which received all intelligence reports on the subject.

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